

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe

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U.S. Faced by Need For Better Housing

Millions of American Families Live in Dwellings Which Are Unsatisfactory

MANY OBSTACLES ARE NOTED

High Building Costs and Low Family Incomes Among Factors Preventing Progress

The 10-point program for America which we are asking readers of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER to study, includes the establishment of better housing conditions. Housing cannot be neglected by those who are interested in American defense, or in the promotion of well-being and happiness. Those who live in houses which are well built, sanitary, light and airy, are likely to be healthier and stronger. A community where the people live in such houses will enjoy better moral conditions; will be more free from crime. Better housing will encourage nearly all the qualities that make a nation great and secure.

Many of our houses are excellent. They are large, airy, soundly built, and have all modern conveniences. But a visit to the city slums, or to the poor country districts, will show that millions of Americans are living in houses which are anything but satisfactory. They live in tenements, or, in the country, in shacks, which are unsightly and unsanitary—menaces to safety and health. It is these, rather than the pleasant homes of the well-to-do, with which we shall concern ourselves in this article.

The Housing Problem

In order to describe the housing problem briefly and yet clearly and to explain some of the efforts to deal with it, we shall use the question-and-answer form of discussion.

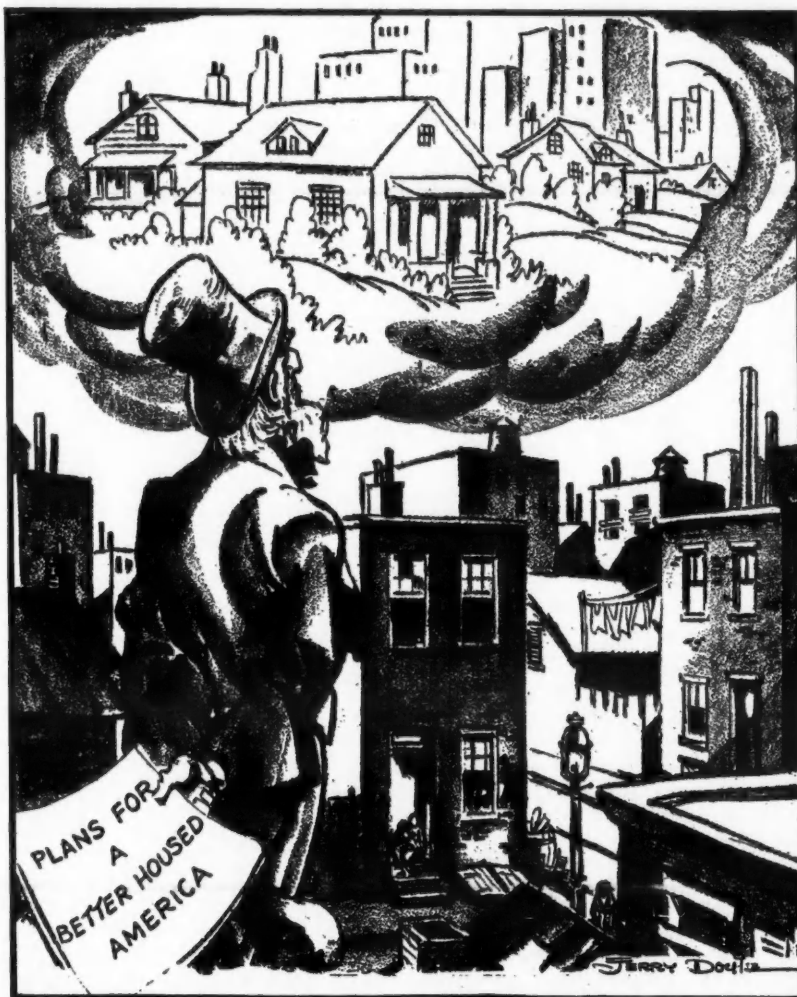
1. What is the extent and seriousness of the housing problem in our country?

It is estimated, by reliable housing experts, that over 10,000,000 American families, or about one-third of the population, live in dwellings which are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of the families themselves and of the public welfare. A great many of these people live in city slums. Most of us are familiar with conditions in the slum areas. Row after row of buildings crowded against each other—dark, narrow hallways—rooms which never get sunlight or fresh air—several families using the same bathroom—many apartments and houses without running water or electricity—families of eight or nine crowded into two or three small rooms—no place for children to play but the busy streets and the trash-filled alleys—such conditions as these can be found in nearly every city.

Nor do we need to go to the cities to find slums. Every small town has a number of houses which are nothing but shacks—a few boards knocked together, with a rickety porch, unpainted walls, broken windows, no plumbing or electric lighting, little protection against cold in the winter and heat in the summer. There are a great many farm homes, too, which have few, or none, of the conveniences which are to be found in better homes.

The discouraging fact is that the housing situation of the nation is growing worse instead of better. In order for the Amer-

(Concluded on page 8)



THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

DOYLE IN N. Y. POST

The Art of Conversation

By WALTER E. MYER

Within the circle of your friends and acquaintances is there someone who tries to be funny all the time? I am sure there is. We all know the type; the fellow who thinks that every time anyone makes a remark to him he must come back with a wisecrack. This fellow is a bore, is he not? Now and then he says something really amusing, of course, but many of his efforts fall quite flat. No one can be funny all the time. The best comedians in the world can't do it. If they are called upon to be funny half an hour a week on the radio they soon lose their audiences. The ordinary individual has even poorer luck. If he tries to be witty every time he opens his mouth, he becomes very tiring to those who are obliged to listen.

Another conversational bore is the fellow who uses conversation as a means of showing off. He does all the talking, displays his knowledge, pays little attention to the remarks of others. His trouble is that he is self-centered. He is likely to choose as subjects of discussion matters in which he is especially interested, without regard to the interests of his friends. You will walk around the block to avoid being compelled to listen to him.

Probably the most common difficulty in the way of good conversation, however, is to be found in the fact that many people have little to talk about. That is why they chatter idly, indulge in small talk and gossip, spend their time joking and "kidding" instead of talking on interesting subjects. If you wish to become interesting you must talk interestingly; you must talk part of the time on interesting subjects. No one is clever enough to talk entertainingly about nothing very long at a time. The safest course is to put some content into your conversation. One way to do that is to read widely. Then you will have something to talk about. Once in a while, when you are chatting with your friends, bring up some subject which comes from outside the little group. Tell about something you have read in a newspaper or a magazine or a book. Or enter into a discussion of a movie you have seen. Anything of that kind will be better than to talk on aimlessly and endlessly about little personal matters known to all the members of the group. At least it will be welcome as a change. A good many young people seem to be afraid of serious conversation. They are afraid they will seem stupid or boring if they don't laugh and chatter constantly about trivialities. That is a mistake. Talk about the little, unimportant, personal things part of the time. Add all the humor you can to the discussions. Be interested in the seemingly trifling things which make an appeal to all of us. But do not be a slave to trivialities. If you are to be really interesting you must broaden your interests and be able at times to converse on topics of real importance.

Britain Mobilizes For Financial War

What Allies Cannot Accomplish With Naval Blockade, They Will Try With Money

RESOURCES ARE ENORMOUS

But Whether They Are Sufficient to Overwhelm Germany Remains for the Future to Show

In discussing the strategy of the Allied powers in their war against Germany, last week, we devoted much of our attention to the British naval blockade of Germany. This naval cordon is one important factor in the larger economic blockade which seems likely to be the most powerful weapon that Britain and France can bring to bear against Hitler.

The naval blockade is a very formidable affair. It has swept German shipping from the seas. It has locked up most of the German navy in the North and Baltic seas. But there are several reasons why the Allies cannot rely upon the naval blockade alone. There is an outside chance, for instance, that the German air force might destroy or reduce the power of the British navy and disrupt the blockade in that fashion. There is an even better chance that the German army may force a military decision before the full effects of the blockade could be brought to bear. There are Russia and Italy to be considered. No one seems to know what course either may eventually adopt toward the war. But if either or both should decide to give all possible economic support to Germany, the effects of the naval blockade would be greatly weakened.

Economic Warfare

Finally, if these reasons were not enough, there remains a lesson which the Allies learned in the World War. When Germany's overseas trade was cut off by blockade, it was found, her trade with nearby states increased proportionately. At the same time these neighboring powers—Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, and others—increased their imports from overseas to a very large degree. The conclusion was obvious. Imports were still flowing into Germany in great volume, but through neutral channels.

It was not until 1916, two years after the war started, that Great Britain began in earnest to make use of the great power she wielded over finance, shipping, markets, and insurance companies the world over, to bring to an end this flow of supply over devious routes.

That British financial pressure was a success was attested by the fact that in that same year, while German troops were enjoying successes on the field of battle, German food stocks began to dwindle. Ration cards for bread, meat, and fats were issued at home for the first time. The German people became all too familiar with the turnip in its various forms—boiled, fried, baked, turnip salad, turnip soup, and turnip coffee. The end of the war was then nearly two years away, but the home front was already weakening. In a recent issue of *The Nation*, Fritz Sternberg quotes the chief of the department of economy in the German ministry as having said, "I can openly say that we had already lost the war when we went into the turnip winter of 1916-17."

What is this manner of warfare with which the Allies defeated Germany in the World War, and now propose to adopt once

(Concluded on page 3)



QUEEN VICTORIA—FROM A PAINTING BY SIR EDWIN LANSEER
In "News Is Where You Find It," Frederic William Wile is at his best when describing Europe's pre-World War days. He was in England just before the death of Queen Victoria.

- Straight Thinking -

VII. "All or Nothing"

THERE is one form of crooked or distorted thinking which every editor has many chances to observe. Here is an illustration: A few years ago there appeared in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER an editorial calling attention to President Roosevelt's long struggle to regain his health after he had suffered from infantile paralysis. There was praise for the strength of will which had carried him through the ordeal. His fortitude and courage during the long years of convalescence were commended. During the years of his illness he studied, thought, prepared himself for future work. By doing this he showed how misfortune might be turned to good account. Shortly after the editorial appeared, the editor received a letter from a subscriber declaring that THE AMERICAN OBSERVER had departed from its usual course of impartiality and that it was putting out pro-Roosevelt propaganda!

At about the same time this paper praised certain personal qualities of Governor Landon, then the Republican presidential candidate, and a subscriber declared that we had come out for Landon.

Every editor has many such experiences. What is the matter with persons who write letters of this kind? The trouble is that their minds are of the "all or nothing" variety. As they see it, every man and every cause, movement, or party is either all good or all bad. They cannot understand how anyone could praise any quality of a public man without being for him completely, or how anyone could criticize some point in a man's character or program without opposing him altogether.

This seems to be such a foolish attitude that the first impression of the reader is likely to be, "Oh, well, such people as that are very rare." But that is not the case, unfortunately. There are many people who will assume that you are against a leader or a candidate if you make some criticism of him, and they will assume that you are supporting anyone you praise in any way.

Very many individuals belong to the "all or nothing" school. They see no good in the party or the nation or any other group whose policies they oppose. If such a person sympathizes with the British and French, he is likely to see no good in the Germans, and vice versa. If anyone praises certain traits of German character the "all or nothing" elements will call him "pro-German." If anyone sees some good in Russia, they will shout "Communist" at him. And so on.

The straight thinker is a balanced thinker. He is likely to see some things to praise in his enemies, and some things to criticize in his friends. He seldom if ever finds a man whom he considers perfect or one whom he regards as utterly without merit. He favors certain planks in a party's platform and opposes other planks. He sees certain weaknesses or faults in his best friends, and yet is loyal to the friend because of the many good qualities which

he possesses. He loves his country and yet calls attention with all his power to certain of its weaknesses or failures.

The straight thinker will not jump too quickly to conclusions. If he hears someone describing as disgraceful the slum conditions which prevail in certain sections of America, he will not assume that this person does not like anything about America, but merely that he does not like the slums. He will be careful about reading into the remarks of others meanings and motives which are not clearly indicated. It is possible to praise certain measures in President Roosevelt's program and certain of his personal characteristics and yet oppose his program as a whole. It is possible to admire certain Republican leaders and yet not be a Republican. It is possible to like the German people and yet oppose Nazi foreign policies. These illustrations could be multiplied many times. The point is that you should be careful about judging a person's position by his attitude on some one part of the question. Be careful about snap judgments.

What the Magazines Say

"GERMANY has emerged as the No. 1 enemy of the so-called democracies. The immediate power of this enemy is to be measured in military terms, but ultimately, as in the last war, it is to be measured by and in her economic system. Perhaps the most urgent question of our time, therefore, is the strength of the German economy."

With this introduction the editors of Fortune magazine begin a series of articles on the Germany that lies behind the Hitler military machine. The first of these—"Germany I: 'We Are Living in a Fortress'"—in the October issue is an excellent study of the German "defense" economy.

The special research experts Fortune sent to Germany found that long before Hitler attempted his present war on the democracies of Europe, he and his forces fought and won, at least temporarily, a long and bitter economic war within the confines of their own country.

The story of Germany's war for economic self-sufficiency as told in this article is an amazing one. After getting rid of unemployment by establishing a gigantic public works and road-building program plus compulsory labor service, Hitler and his henchman, Goering, turned their attention to making Germany free from the necessity of depending on their neighbors for food, minerals, and manufactured products. A "back to the soil" movement and the reclaiming of land increased the food supply. In his second four-year plan, as described in this article, Hitler asked that the "creative genius" of the German people be devoted to making the raw materials they lacked. The result, as shown in pictures, charts, and maps of the Fortune article, was the manufacture of rubber tires from coal and lime, the development of oil by liquefying coal, and the production of textiles from wood fiber.

Estimating the economic value of the land Hitler has already taken, the article says: "The economic structure of the Greater Reich is about the same as before, however, and total self-sufficiency has been increased little if at

Wile Reminisces About Germany in Prewar Days of 1914 in New Book

FOR the last 40 years, Frederic William Wile has been a leading figure in the field of journalism. Like so many of the other "big names" in the newspaper world, Mr. Wile began as a cub reporter on the Chicago Record, in 1898, and rose rapidly to the position of foreign correspondent for two of the world's most important newspapers, the New York Times and the London Daily Mail of Lord Northcliffe. Mr. Wile has now written a fascinating autobiography covering those four decades of active life as a reporter—"News Is Where You Find It" (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, \$3.75).

Mr. Wile arrived in London in the spring of 1900, when Queen Victoria was entering the final months of her long reign; when the Boer War was in full swing; and when an important era in British history was fast coming to an end. Here are a few words about the London of those days at the turn of the century:

If the English and American languages diverged, that was nothing compared to the differences in everyday customs which the greenhorn from "the States" encountered. One missed most, and most immediately, the ordinary conveniences and "service" amid which our pampered American generation grew up. "Central heating" (steam heat), if not a luxury in London in 1900, was "laid on" in only rare instances—in a few of the more modern hotels and "blocks of flats" (apartment houses). In a lexicon of London merchants there was no such word as speed. Not until Harry Gordon Selfridge, who came up from the ranks of a cashboy at Marshall Field's in Chicago, revolutionized retail merchandising and advertising with his great London department store in 1909 did our British cousins become familiar with the "service" which American customers take for granted and which makes our big shops still the best in the world.

The barbershops were atrocious, the coffee undrinkable. American women could find no wearable "boots" in even the most exclusive London shops. Girl ushers in the theaters charged sixpence for a program, and then piloted you to "stalls," not orchestra seats. Grate fires, coal buckets, shovels, pokers and andirons were still in vogue. I'm not sure that even today ice water is available in restaurants and hotels, except as a grudging concession. . . .

The following year, Mr. Wile was sent to Berlin, where he spent the next 13 years, until the beginning of the World War.

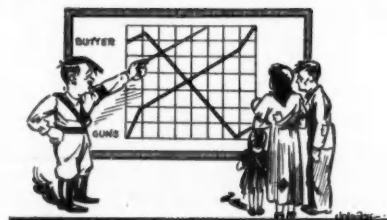
This is perhaps the most interesting part of his book for he shows, step by step, how the great war was becoming inevitable. Those were the days when Germany was struggling for commercial and industrial supremacy; when the navy was rapidly challenging Britain's mastery of the seas; when the Kaiser's "public utterances were awaited with a shudder in every chancellery of the world" and "more than once threatened to embroil the Reich in international complications bordering on war," according to Mr. Wile.

There was much in Germany to remind one of the Nazi Germany we have come to know during the last six years. Officially, there was no anti-Semitism, and yet it was impossible for young German Jews to "aspire to commissions in the Prussian Army or in the German Navy, or to positions in the higher ranks of the civil service. Nor could Jewish scholars, though eminent in every cultural and scientific branch, become full-fledged professors in the universities." Symbolic of the wave of anti-Semitism was the remark of a prominent surgeon, when asked if a certain doctor by the same name was a relative of his. "Why, of course not; he's not even German; he's a Jew!" was the reply given to Mr. Wile.

But that was not the only point of similarity between the Germany of the first decade of the century and the Germany of the thirties. The difficulty of foreign correspondents in those days was not in obtaining evidence of Germany's plans of expansion, but of persuading readers abroad "that the Germany of William II was consciously bent on conquest by the blood and iron method bequeathed and sanctified by Bismarck, the Empire-builder." Giving further details, Mr. Wile writes:

Though it accepted the ascendancy of the war lords, the nation at large in 1914 did not desire war. Germany was waxing fat without war. She was respected and feared. Her army was the strongest in the world. Her navy was expanding at a rate that filled even the Mistress of the Seas with alarm. Her merchant marine was steadily obtaining predominance. Her export trade was mounting by leaps and bounds. When William II celebrated his Silver Jubilee in 1913, he presided over a realm which, economically and defensively secure, was as immutably headed for a future of assured peace and prosperity as any people on the face of the earth. . . .

But mere tranquility and pacific progress did not suit the purposes of the spurred, helmeted, and epauletted masters of the German people. The education of the country along corresponding lines therefore became between 1900 and 1914 the supreme task of the caste which hankered for a wider "place in the sun," for a "German future on the water," and for all those symbols of imperial grandeur heralded as the inalienable heritage of Nietzsche's supermen. Out of such stuff was hewn the theory, hammered into the German soul day and night for 10 years before Serajevo, that the isolation of the Fatherland was the goal of the "encirclement policy." "Uncle" Edward VII of England was generally pilloried as its patentee. Its alleged object was to surround the Reich with an invincible iron ring of enemies—Great Britain, France, and Russia, and their respective satellites. The ultimate aim of this *Einkreisung-Politik*, the docile Germans of William II's day were told, was only to prevent the territorial expansion of an overpopulated Germany, but, by throttling her economically and militarily, also to condemn her to a second-rate international status.



enormously greater expansion of her ersatz (substitution) program, she may possibly attain self-sufficiency in rubber, gasoline and some oils, textile fiber, and a few other items. But any real self-sufficiency will require foreign conquests or the help of allies."

* * * * *

Demaree Bess, writing in The Saturday Evening Post for October 14 in an article called "Stalin Over Europe," believes that Stalin deliberately precipitated the war, but has no intentions of making a permanent alliance with Nazi Germany. Of Stalin he says:

"He is so completely isolationist that he was willing deliberately to provoke a European war in order to insure Russian isolation."

He also gives an interesting analysis of Stalin's personality: "Stalin is the most cold-blooded of all modern dictators. . . . He makes his plans with the cool detachment of a professional army general, combined with the ruthless brutality of the absolute fanatic."

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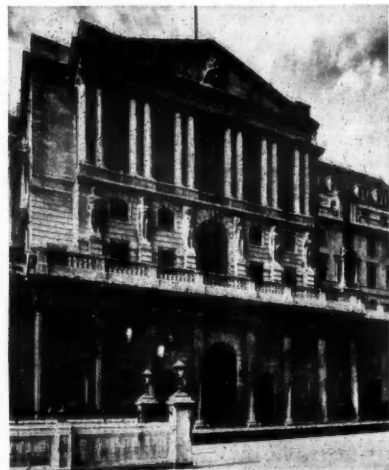
Allies Plan for Economic War

(Concluded from page 1, column 4)

more to accomplish the same ends? Because of the secrecy which shrouds its activities, successes and failures are not known to most people until years later. Its field extends over the entire surface of the earth. Its weapons may be counted in gold, sterling, bank credits, and adding machines. Its soldiers are bankers, economists, and Englishmen in the colonial service who wear tweeds and carry leather dispatch cases. The battles are fought behind closed doors in directors' rooms and offices. It has not been by accident that the British ministry of blockade of World War days has been superseded today by a ministry of economic warfare.

"The City"

The power which makes such warfare possible is concentrated in an old section of London called simply "the City," which is the British equivalent of Wall Street. Narrow streets wind in and out between solid old buildings whose walls are gray with smoke and soot, and whose roofs and cornices are virtually given over to pigeons. Although it has been sharply challenged by New York in recent years, the City of London still retains much of the financial supremacy which it has held ever since the



FINANCIAL POWER

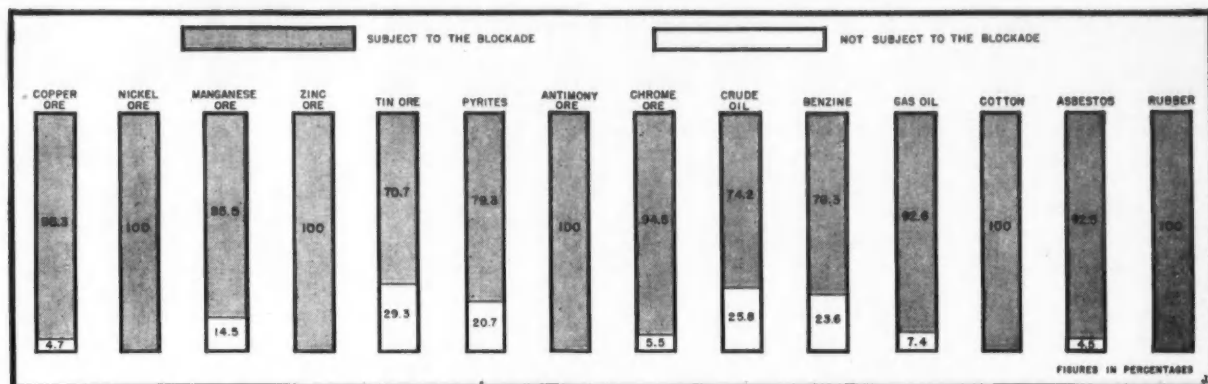
The Bank of England, fountainhead of Britain's far-flung financial resources.

Napoleonic Wars proved the gold vaults of Amsterdam, the old money center, to be too vulnerable.

Within these old gray buildings are the great international banks which have developed along with the British Empire and whose fortunes are bound up with the Empire's trade, shipping, and future. Some of these banks are—or have been—great powers in themselves. Among them are such famous names as Barclays, Lloyds of London, Baring Brothers, Glyn Mills and Company, the Westminster and Midland banks, and most famous of all, of course, the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street, which is the Bank of England.

Under the emergency measures which are now in effect both in England and France, all the financial wealth of the Allies is being slowly mobilized for the struggle. A British citizen who holds Argentine railway bonds, for instance, must register those bonds with the government. He cannot sell them to anyone but a person residing within England, at present, and chances are that he will have to turn in the bonds later, and receive a certificate from the government. Interest payments he will subsequently receive not from Argentine railways, but through the British government. In the meantime the bonds may be used by the government to secure a loan, or for some other purpose. The same is true with all foreign exchange (dollars, lira, pesos, and so forth), with gold, silver, foreign government bonds, stocks in foreign corporations—anything, in fact, that can be used by the Allies as payment for goods or services purchased abroad.

In this manner the Allied governments are in a position to bring an enormous accumulation of wealth to bear wherever



CAN GERMANY HOLD OUT?

British economic warfare makes it difficult for Germany to obtain sufficient supplies of vital minerals.

and whenever necessary. For purchases in the United States, for instance, the British and French may rely upon gold, bank balances in the United States, American securities, and direct investments in the United States. According to a study made by the staff of the National City Bank of New York, the combined total of these assets stands today at \$8,180,000,000, as compared with a figure of \$7,505,000,000 in 1914. These, of course, represent only the assets which can readily be used for purchases in the United States. Combined holdings in Britain and France of securities of other countries have been estimated to approach the figure of 15 billion dollars. But this is just an estimate. It may be either more or less.

Having accumulated these resources, the Allies are already beginning to use them. In the past efforts have been directed along three lines: (1) pressure to put firms controlled by or sympathizing with the enemy out of business; (2) pressure and intimidation to prevent neutral nations and neutral firms from shipping goods to Germany, and (3) a large-scale effort to buy up war stocks in order to prevent Germany from getting them.

Blacklisting

One of the first acts of the financial war has been a revival of the British "blacklist," which was first resorted to in the World War on July 18, 1916. Containing the names of all firms in neutral countries believed to be German-owned, or maintaining close relations with German interests, the list is made public to put a stop to whatever indirect trade these firms may be maintaining with Germany. No British subject may deal with a blacklisted firm. No British ship may carry its goods. In World War days neutral shipping was warned to refrain from carrying goods from or to blacklisted firms under penalty of being refused to take on coal at any ports in the British Empire.

During the World War the blacklist produced a great deal of irritation in America. Bankers sensed an implied threat, and in some cases refused to extend credits to blacklisted firms in the fear of British reprisals. The State Department protested. The *New York Times* remarked editorially that "Americans do not derive the right to trade from the British government." What-

ever might have been the consequences of the dispute over Britain's methods in dealing with blacklisted firms, it was forgotten when the United States entered the war.

In the case of the new blacklist the British have been more cautious. Whereas in 1916 this document listed some 80 American firms, the 1939 list includes no American, Italian, or Spanish firms, a fact which appears to indicate that this time Britain means to avoid alienating important neutrals. Most of the approximately 300 firms in the present list are located in Holland, Scandinavia, Latin America, and the Far East. Even so, the new list was greeted with little enthusiasm in New York. Shippers complained that all cargoes consigned to blacklisted firms would be subject to seizure by the British (even if bound to a neutral American republic). Claims for compensation can be presented only in a prize court in Great Britain or one of the dominions—an expensive undertaking which may drag out for years before any decision is reached.

Rationing System

A second technique was developed during the World War to supplement the blacklist. Greatly concerned by the steady flow of war materials through neutrals to Germany, British experts studied the peacetime requirements of the states through which these goods were moving. When satisfied that it knew exactly what the needs of these states actually were, the British government established a rationing system. It established quotas for each country. The British navy was used to prevent these states from importing any goods in excess of that quota, and by that means managed to slow down, and eventually to stop the flow of important war necessities into Germany through neutral distribution points. Once again a great deal of friction resulted. Neutral states had been turning over a lively and profitable trade with Germany, and were stirred to a high pitch of resentment when the Allied governments presumed to bring this trade to a halt.

That the Allies will attempt to reintroduce the rationing system for small neutral states adjoining Germany is generally expected. But the situation today differs from that of 1916 to the extent that there are important and powerful neutrals who will not be threatened or intimidated today,

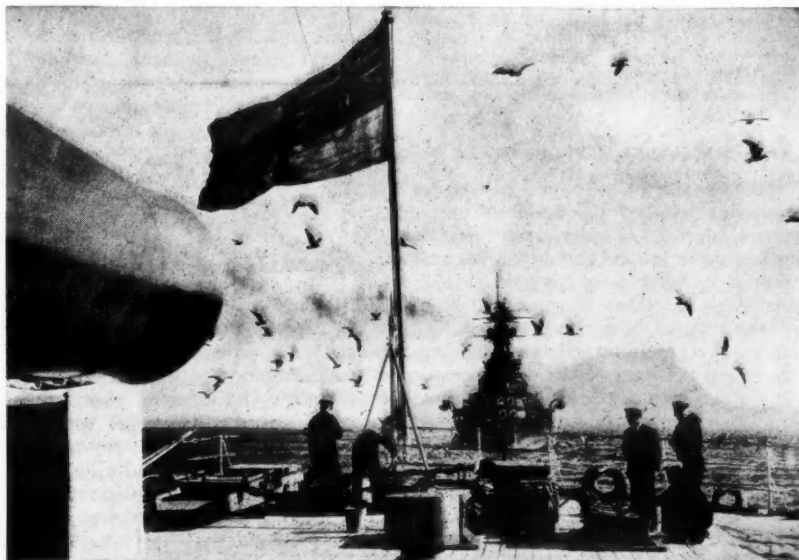
whereas in 1916 every major power in the world excepting the United States was at war. Whether England would presume to tell Mussolini how much he would be permitted to import over a certain length of time, or Stalin, or Franco, is doubtful.

A Delicate Task

For this reason it seems very likely that Britain will have to make use of her financial power in a manner which will prove less painful to important neutrals. This brings the Allies to the most delicate and most secretive task of all, that of bringing pressure to bear upon important corporations, banks, and countries by a large number of means. It is no secret, for instance, that British financial experts have been conducting exhaustive surveys, during the last few years, to determine where important raw materials may be obtained, who owns them, what banking houses take care of their business, what railroads or ships carry them, and so forth. The Allied objective in this case is to stop all German imports which are not subject to a naval blockade, the blacklist, or the rationing system, by blocking them, or buying them up at the source.

The manner in which this is done is likely to vary in each individual instance. As an example, one might take the purely theoretical case of a large tin exporter in Bolivia. The British government knows that he has a large contract with the German government. The tin will be consigned to an Italian firm in Naples, and then resold, and shipped by rail to Germany. There is nothing that the British blockade, blacklist, or ration system can do to prevent it without the danger of embroiling Italy in a dangerous dispute. So the British and French explore other channels. Their field men call upon the exporter and urge him to reconsider. If he refuses, they are likely to discover he is deeply indebted to certain Bolivian banks. These banks are dependent for financial support on certain large British banking combines. The British banking combine then communicates with the Bolivian banks in a polite, but firm manner. Soon the tin exporter learns that unless certain large contracts are turned into other channels, the banks will find it necessary to call in his large loans. Faced with bankruptcy or financial embarrassment, the exporter "reconsiders" the proposition. In some cases the pressure would come instead from railroads, which would refuse to carry his freight, or would delay it. It might come from a shipping company, an insurance firm which would refuse to insure him, and so on. If all other methods fail, the Allies will sometimes step in and simply buy up the materials to prevent Germany from getting them. This happened during the World War in the case of shipments of a number of products.

To this end the British government has recently concluded a new trade agreement with Russia, and is attempting to arrive at others with Sweden, Denmark, and the Netherlands. Employing these methods, then, the Allies hope to defeat Germany by a great financial offensive, while the French army holds the line on the western front. There is no possibility that Britain will attempt to prevent all goods from moving into Germany. She will concentrate chiefly upon those of which the secret researches of her experts tell her Germany will probably be most desperately in need. It is not a spectacular form of warfare, but it is an effective one.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

THE BRITISH NAVY IS THE FORCE BEHIND THE BRITISH BLOCKADE



GUARDING THE PANAMA CANAL

Since the outbreak of the war, added precautions have been taken to ensure the safety of the Panama Canal. Big guns and anti-aircraft crews are ready to defend the canal at a moment's notice.

INT'L. NEWS

DOMESTIC

Union Battle

Since the Congress of Industrial Organizations broke away from the American Federation of Labor in 1935, there have been recurrent, but unsuccessful, attempts to unite the two factions. In April, at the request of President Roosevelt, representatives of the two organizations met around a council table, but were unable to agree, and the parley adjourned "temporarily." This month, when the AFL and the CIO held their annual conventions, President Roosevelt sent them a new plea for labor peace. He said that due to the emergency arising from the international situation, it was imperative "that our small grudges" be forgotten, and declared that "efforts must be continued until a sound, negotiated basis for peace between labor groups is reached and agreed upon."

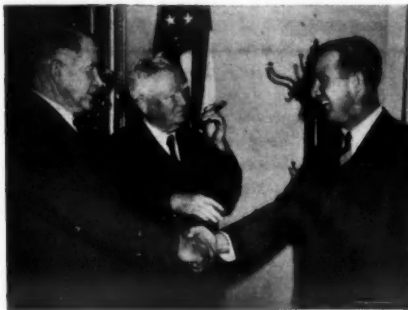
As soon as the conventions opened, however, it was obvious that there was almost no prospect of immediate harmony. From both Cincinnati, where the AFL was gathering, and San Francisco, where the CIO delegates met, came belligerent speeches and charges against the other group. Committees were advised to be ready to continue talks on labor unity, but most observers thought that peace this year was improbable. In fact, all signs pointed the other way as AFL made plans to organize the steel industry, now dominated by the CIO, and John L. Lewis, president of the CIO, promised that he would be back in five years to report 10 million members, instead of the present four million.

In other respects, the two conventions dealt with more or less similar subjects. Both emphasized that the United States must keep out of war, with the CIO backing the repeal of the arms embargo. The AFL, with William Green elected president for the fifteenth con-

secutive time, continued its attack on the National Labor Relations Board, which, it charges, has been partial to the CIO. Lewis, whose CIO organization has previously crusaded against any change in the Act, likewise attacked the Board, saying that it was "leaning over backward" in an attempt to be fair. With both the CIO and the AFL in a militant mood, another year of inter-labor strife appeared likely.

Radio Self-Disciplined

The National Association of Broadcasters, composed of the three major networks and a majority of the independent stations, recently decided to ban from the air speakers who dealt with "controversial" matters, unless these were issues to be decided in an approaching election. The action was taken by the



ENMITY FORGOTTEN

Bitter opponents in last year's Kentucky senatorial contest, Senator Alben Barkley and Senator A. B. Chandler forget their differences. Senator Chandler, until a few days ago was governor of his state, but resigned to take the Senate seat left vacant by the death of Senator Logan.

N. A. B.'s Code Compliance Committee, recently set up to ensure radio's good behavior after a White House threat of censorship. And although radio will be the loser financially, this policy will promote democracy, the committee pointed out:

... it is conceivable that some individuals or groups with financial means to do so could buy all the available time necessary to monopolize, dominate, or control the discussion of public issues through the radio medium, precluding a fair opportunity for an opposition without financial resources to present its case to the radio audience.

In-Service Training

The government employee who wants to study his job and the problems of public service in general is today given every assistance in doing so. He (or she) is offered free courses, special library privileges, a hint of promotion and salary increase, and at times is even excused from regular work. This is known as "in-service training," and one of the biggest milestones in its development was the George-Deen Act, which Congress passed in 1936 to provide funds to state and local governments for this purpose. Several cities have taken advantage of this offer and many more have plans under way. Detroit recently reported that 1,200 public servants in that area have attended night courses in Wayne University in the last two years. The workers enrolled voluntarily and in this case were offered no credit or raise in pay. Tests re-

The Week at Home

What the People of the World Are

vealed that after completing the courses they were better prepared to fulfil their duties.

In Washington several of the departments, such as Agriculture, offer courses to their employees, who may thus increase their competence and improve their civil service rating. Often employees are given this training on "company time," an example of this being members of the foreign service who are brought home after a year's service abroad and given several months of advanced instruction. Harvard University recently set up the Littauer School of Public Administration, to which certain selected government workers are sent. Along the same line, although not precisely in-service training, is the "intern" system whereby 50 college graduates come to Washington each year on scholarships from the National Institute of Public Affairs. They hold unpaid government jobs, without displacing any regular employees, for nine months, and at the end of that time they are usually better fitted to enter regular service than persons without this training.

Tax Reorganization

Despite the normal growth of the nation, state and local governments have been able in the last five years to eliminate more than 6,500 governmental bodies which previously levied taxes. This has been done by abolishing 6,960 school districts, either through consolidation or by entrusting the upkeep of schools to cities and townships, and by doing away with 677 townships which were presumably "overlapping" and taxing an area already taxed by a different body. The survey revealing these figures was made by the Illinois Tax Committee, which was doubtless perturbed by the fact that Illinois has more taxing units than any other state. The report shows that there are now 118,667 school districts, 19,303 townships, 16,450 incorporated places, 3,052 counties, and 3,624 miscellaneous units with taxing powers.

Giant Project

This week the largest public housing development in the United States will be formally opened in Long Island City, New York. Costing \$13,500,000, the group will be composed of 26 Y-shaped apartment houses, six stories high, and will accommodate 3,149 families, or an estimated 11,400 persons. Each fireproof apartment will be equipped with a modern bathroom, a kitchen, electric refrigerator, gas stove, and ample closet space. Surrounding the development a 15-acre park will be laid out, while group activities will revolve about a community center comprising a gymnasium, social room, and kitchen. A nursery school to handle children from the neighborhood as well as those of tenants will be still another feature.

The development was built by the New York City Housing Authority, 90 per cent of the funds being lent by the United States Housing Authority. Rents will be on an average of \$5.41 a month per room, and since it was designed for families with low incomes, certain financial restrictions will be imposed. For families renting the two-and-one-half-room apartments, the maximum annual income cannot exceed \$1,196, while those renting the six-and-one-half-room apartments cannot have an annual income over \$1,399.

Forests in Flames

Nearly 34 million acres of timber—an area as large as the state of Arkansas—were destroyed by fire last year. Careless campers and smokers, sparks from locomotives and chimneys, and lightning originated the flames which caused a damage of approximately 21 million dollars. There were 232,000 separate fires—one every two and a half minutes.

Until now slow transportation has been the greatest obstacle to stamping out the flames in timber quickly. This is rapidly being overcome by using airplanes; already there are 74 landing fields in the national forests to which men can be flown for action in the surround-

ing timberlands. One airplane, loaded with tools and food, can drop these supplies by parachutes to a number of widely scattered crews. From pictures taken by aerial photography, the foresters can tell immediately whether the land surrounding the flames is flat or hilly, and where there are roads, trails, and streams. The forest service headquarters are in constant communication with the pilots, who have two-way radio sets in their planes.

Social Security

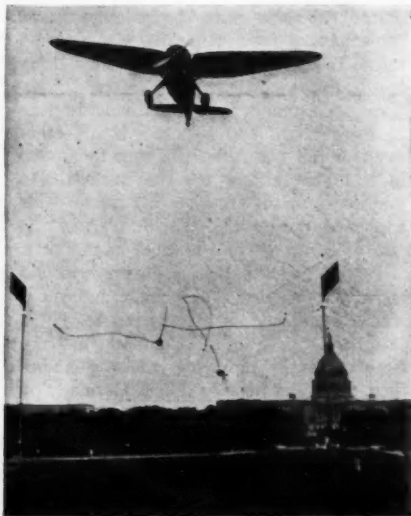
When Congress advanced the date for beginning old-age insurance payments from January 1, 1942, to January 1, 1940, the Social Security Board rushed into action. With less time, it had to move quickly to get the necessary machinery organized. Throughout next year 485,000 wage earners

INCOME	SINGLE PERSON		
	ENGLAND	UNITED STATES	ENGLAND
\$100.			
\$2,000	\$350.40	\$40.	\$462.00
\$4,000	\$976.26	\$120.	\$712.00
\$20,000	\$8,326.26	\$1,450.	\$2,020.00

BRITISH TAXES
The war has placed a heavy burden upon the British taxpayer. Taxes compared to 1939-40

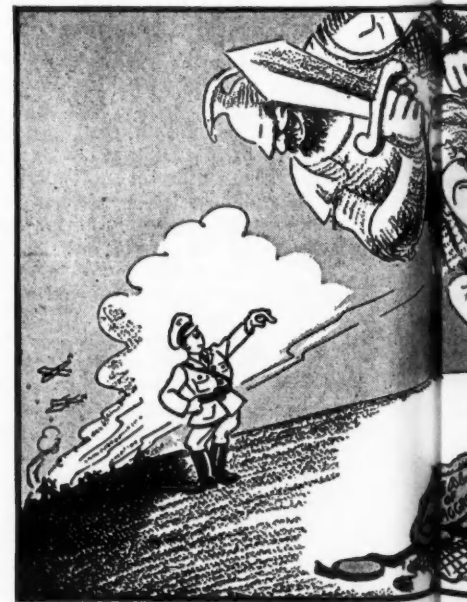
are expected to apply for the monthly benefits; having contributed one per cent of each of their pay checks to the Social Security fund since its beginning, they are eligible, now, at the age of 65, to receive a small pension. Some of the eligible workers have died, however, and their payments will go to their widows and dependent children; there are about 427,000 persons in this group. Altogether approximately 912,000 checks are to be distributed each month as the program reaches its first year's peak.

By the end of 1940, a total of about \$114,000,000 will have been paid out in this manner. Each check will average between \$20 and \$25, depending on the payments which the worker has made to the fund. More and



AIR MAIL PICK-UP

A feature of the recent U. S. postmasters' convention in Washington, was a demonstration of the new air mail pick-up system. The plane drops mail and picks it up while still in flight, making it possible for small communities to have the advantages of air mail service.



HITLER: "THE WAR IS OVER"
GENIE: "AH, BUT I'M NOT!"

Home and Abroad

Are Doing, Saying, and Thinking

more persons will receive checks in the succeeding years. A total of \$298,000,000 will probably be paid in 1941, and \$431,000,000 in 1942. Besides the Washington headquarters, there are over 300 field offices which help to keep the social security program in motion. Nearly 6,900 men and women are on the Board's payroll.

FOREIGN

Kremlin Discussions

Within the gloomy walls and towers of Moscow's old czarist fortress, the Kremlin, Josef Stalin and his aides concentrated last week on Finland and Turkey in their drive

or attack Iran, both of which are allied with Great Britain. But both powers also are closely bound to Turkey—Rumania through a recent agreement, and Iran by the mutual assistance pact of Saadabad, signed by Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan in 1934. A Russian attack on either would place Turkey in an unpleasant position.

As regards Finland, Soviet policy is less clouded. The Russians are believed to be demanding the right to fortify certain small Finnish islands near Leningrad, an out-and-out mutual assistance pact, and rights in the strategic Aland Islands, which lie at the juncture of the upper Baltic, and the gulfs of Finland and Bothnia. Finland, it is believed, is disposed to accept these proposals in part, but not to compromise her neutrality. The matter of the Aland Islands introduces further complications, for they lie close to Stockholm, and are thus important to Sweden as well as Finland. To discuss the rapidly changing conditions in northern Europe, King Gustav of Sweden has asked the kings Haakon and Christian, of Norway and Denmark, and President Kallio of Finland, to meet for a conference with him in Stockholm. Pending the outcome of all these discussions, no one can say what may happen.

War in Earnest

The autumn rains were falling over the western front last week, turning yellow and brown leaves soggy underfoot, and trenches freshly dug by French troops in German soil into muddy ditches. The wind had grown colder; shell fire heavier. Squat, ugly German howitzers belched flame and steel at French lines, while patrols constantly probed for weak spots. French officers peered east through mists for the first signs of the expected German offensive, and blew up bridges along the upper Rhine. The war, like the weather, was beginning to suggest a grim winter.

But uncertainty still prevailed as to whether it would turn, as Hitler forecast when Daladier and Chamberlain rejected his demands for a German peace, into the "most gruesome blood-bath in history." A certain hesitation was evident. Hitler, it seemed, had not yet decided to take the fatal step and loose a whirlwind air and land attack to the west. He conferred at length with military aides. He let it be known indirectly that he would welcome the mediation offer of some important neutral. Questioning eyes turned to Washington, but President Roosevelt made no effort to take advantage of this suggestion, hinting that he had done so upon previous occasions only to have his fingers burned. Then Hitler hinted at a new threat. Unless the Allies hastened to accept his demands, he said, they might have to face Italy and Russia as well as Germany. Neither Moscow nor Rome confirmed this threat.

At sea, however, the war raged in dead earnest. The Allies claimed to have destroyed 17 German U-boats. No less impressive were German claims. The 29,150-ton battleship *Royal Oak* had been torpedoed and sent to the bottom to join the aircraft carrier *Courageous*. The Germans also claimed to have damaged another aircraft carrier, and two huge British battle cruisers. British naval authorities denied the latter, belittled the former.

Repatriation

One of the most unusual of recent developments on the continent of Europe has been the decision of Germany to repatriate—or bring back—all Germans living in certain countries, and some Germans living in other states. The first inkling of this policy was given in the summer when Germans living in Italy were suddenly confronted with the alternative of returning to Germany at once, or renouncing forever all claims to minority rights. Recently this policy was extended as all Germans in the Baltic states were called home on 48 hours' notice. This amounted to 15,000 in Estonia, 62,000 in Latvia, and 40,



LITTLE GIRLS IN GERMANY

These members of the Hitler Youth organization have not yet felt the full shock of modern war. Smilingly, unmindful of what war really means, they can offer comfort to wounded German soldiers. To them, war does not yet mean what it means to the little Polish girl pictured at the bottom of this page.

000 in Lithuania. An immediate reason for this, of course, is the fact that Russia now dominates the Baltic states, and Hitler wants no minority disputes with Stalin. But it is also reported that Germany is preparing to repatriate Germans in other states—such as Yugoslavia—over a long period of time. In a recent speech Hitler proposed a large-scale exchange of minorities as one way of ensuring a permanent peace in eastern Europe.

There is unquestionably much to be said in favor of general repatriation. If it had been adopted earlier, some observers reflect, repatriation could have been applied to Czechoslovakia, and Lithuanian Memel, and perhaps saved Europe from its present conflict. But it is a very difficult, expensive, and painful undertaking. When Greece and Turkey exchanged minorities after the World War, there was great suffering among those torn

the foreign ministry was to be absorbed along with the ministries of treasury and commerce. Such would relegate the diplomats virtually to the position of minor salesmen for the empire, and leave the control over foreign affairs in the hands of the army. In sheer dismay 150 ranking members of the foreign ministry handed in their resignations and went on strike. This caught the cabinet off its guard. The public was aroused. It was felt that the diplomats had been dishonorably treated. Within a week the cabinet was forced to retreat from its stand.

Thus, for the first time in two years, the Japanese foreign office has won a tilt with the ambitious army high command. Whether it can hold on to its victory is a very important matter, for it may have a great deal to do with the future of Japanese foreign policy. This is particularly true in the case of relations with the United States which the foreign ministry, in striking contrast to the army, has always tried to better.

Cost of War

Millions of dollars are being spent each day by the countries involved in Europe's war. Great Britain's bill is the largest, piling up at the rate of 21 million dollars a day. During the first year, the English government plans to spend eight billion dollars. Half this amount will be raised by immediate taxation. The rest will be borrowed by issuing bonds which the government must redeem at some future date.

It is estimated that France and Germany are spending at the rate of 12 million dollars daily apiece for actual fighting, and for the preparations which they are undertaking. Russia, although not engaged in as much fighting yet, has a daily bill of about four million dollars. Adding another 12 million dollars daily for the smaller nations which are keeping themselves in wartime readiness, Europe's military expenses reach a total of an estimated 61 million dollars a day.



EVACUATED

A view of the market place in the Finnish city of Viipuri where voluntary evacuation of civilians started on October 10 as Russia massed armed forces on the borders of Finland. The round tower is a remnant of the city's fortifications in the Middle Ages.

from the lands on which they and their ancestors had been living for centuries. The same would hold true of Germans in the plains of Hungary and Rumania, and in Poland or Yugoslavia. In most cases residence has not been a matter of a few years, but of hundreds of years. Yet, if a large-scale repatriation of most European minorities over a long period of time could bring an end to the ever-recurring minority troubles, some observers consider that it would be well worth the effort.

Diplomatic Picket Line

Ever since the Japanese army invaded North China, in the summer of 1937, the power and prestige of the Japanese foreign ministry has steadily declined. Time and again the foreign office has exerted its best efforts to reach an honorable understanding with some foreign power—only to have it contemptuously ignored and violated by the army high command. These developments have greatly embittered the loyal, hard-working men in the diplomatic service who have always taken such pride in their office and work, and in the honor which is nominally theirs of representing the Emperor in the foreign capitals of the world.

The most humiliating blow of all was dealt to the diplomats recently when the reactionary cabinet hustled through a new law which created a new ministry of trade, into which



LITTLE GIRL IN POLAND

This uncensored photograph was brought back from Warsaw by Julian Bryon, American author and photographer, who remained in the Polish capital after other Americans had left. He is shown comforting a little girl who lost her sister in an air raid.

MARRIED COUPLE		FAMILY	
ENGLAND	UNITED STATES	ENGLAND	UNITED STATES
\$46.26	NONE	\$70.08	NONE
\$71.26	\$60.	\$721.26	\$28.
\$202.06	\$1,260.	\$8,047.26	\$1,164.

PICTURES, INC.

BRITISH TAXES
The above chart shows what the average Englishman pays to the average American.

to bring neighboring states into line with Soviet policy. Unlike the small, weak Baltic states, both Finland and Turkey showed signs that they would resist excessive demands. To make it clear that Russia, too, was determined, the Soviets massed troops among the lakes and forests near the Finnish border, and in the Transcaucasian hills near the Turkish frontier.

Why such pressure was applied to Turkey is not clear, for the Turks have long been among the best friends of the Soviets. It was thought likely, however, that Stalin wanted a promise that Turkey would not permit Allied warships to enter the Black Sea through the Dardanelles (which Turkey controls) in the event he should try to partition Rumania,



STRUBE, COURTESY WASHINGTON POST

BACK IN THE BOTTLE!"
"I'M HUNGRY NOW!"

It was just 10 years ago this week that the stock market went into a tailspin, starting the most severe and longest depression in the history of the country. Although it was little realized at the time and its full import is uncertain even to this day, that tragic October day in 1929 marked the end of an era in American history and the beginning of another. What Prime Minister Chamberlain said of the present war may be said with equal truth about the depression: "The world will not be the same world that we have known before." During no comparable period in our national history have such fundamental changes been wrought in our economic system as those which have taken place during the last decade. Whatever the future may bring, we may be certain that never again will we return to things as they were before the breakdown of 1929.

End of an Era

The collapse of 10 years ago came as the greater shock because the country was unprepared for it. Less than a short year before, Herbert Hoover had been swept into office on the slogan of abolishing poverty from the face of the land. "We in America are nearer to the final triumph over poverty," he said, "than ever before in the history of any land. . . . We have not reached the goal, but, given a chance to go forward with the policies of the last eight years, we shall soon, with the help of God, be in sight of the day when poverty will be banished from this nation."

Certainly the period between the conclusion of the World War and the depression was "capitalism at full tide," as historians have referred to it. On the eve of the October crash, American business and financial enterprise had reached peaks undreamed of a decade earlier. The automobile industry, which made its greatest strides during the twenties, created some 4,000,000 jobs and indirectly supported from 16 to 20 million people. An average of two billion dollars a year was spent on highways, giving additional direct and in-



THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

The stock exchange is regarded as a barometer of American business. When times are good prices of stocks go up; when times are bad they go down. In October 1929, they went down rapidly and the nation was soon plunged into depression.

Historical Backgrounds

By David S. Muzzey and Paul D. Miller

The Depression -- 10 Years After

direct employment. New industries, such as radio and electrical appliances, appeared on the horizon, further to stimulate the entire economy.

The twenties were marked by a building boom of unprecedented proportions. In 1925 alone building construction amounted to over six billion dollars, many times the prewar peak. It mattered little that the American people lacked sufficient money to take off the market the vast quantities of products being turned out. They could always buy on credit. From 60 to 80 per cent of all automobiles were purchased on the installment plan, and there was scarcely a product which could not be bought on

credit. By the end of the decade 15 per cent of all goods were sold "on time."

And what could not be sold on the domestic market found ready buyers abroad. Here again, the lack of money with which to make payment was no handicap, for the twenties was the decade of gigantic foreign loans. During the decade, some seven billion dollars in loans were made to foreigners and the proceeds used to buy American goods. This amounted in effect to one group of Americans lending money to foreigners to pay another group of Americans for their goods.

Those who had eyes to see could have discerned weak spots in this picture of uni-

versal prosperity. A large section of the population, the farmers, had never recovered from the depression of 1921 and thus lacked the means of buying increasing quantities of industrial goods. A number of industries, such as coal-mining, textiles, and leather goods, failed to share in the boom. Perhaps the weakest spot of all was the trend of wages and salaries. While wages did increase during the twenties, they did not rise proportionately with profits. As a result, a larger proportion of the country's wealth was being ploughed back into industry for further expansion of factories and not enough was being paid out to those who might have absorbed greater quantities of goods.

Important Changes

The greatest single change that has taken place in American economy since the 1929 debacle has been the intervention of the government to make the economic system function. Before 1929, the capitalist system was regarded as a self-regulating machine which, though it might stall occasionally, would soar ever forward at greater speed. But when the breakdown came and it became apparent that prosperity was not "just around the corner," the power of the government was used to bolster it, to prevent more millions from becoming unemployed and to prevent complete collapse. Even in Mr. Hoover's administration, the government had to step in to support the banks and railroads and to provide funds to prevent starvation. The process which was begun on two or three fronts under the Hoover administration has been carried forward on scores of fronts under the Roosevelt administration. The "new economic era" of which optimists spoke in the late twenties became a reality during the course of the depression, but not in the manner they contemplated. Whatever final shape that "new economic era" will take, one may be certain that it will be greatly transformed from the unrestricted "capitalism at full tide," which passed from the scene with the Indian Summer of 1929.

Glossary of Military and Diplomatic Terms

Admiralty. The British naval high command.

Barter. In its international sense this expression refers to a practice adopted by Germany (also Italy) of paying for goods purchased abroad with her own produce, rather than with money.

B.E.F. Initials of the British Expeditionary Force fighting in France.

Bloc. A group of nations bound together by a common geographic, political, or economic interest; such as the "sterling bloc," or "Balkan bloc."

Blitzkrieg (German). A quick war. A lightning blow.

Comintern (Russian). The abbreviated form of the phrase Communist Internationale, which was established in Moscow in 1917 for the purpose of promoting world revolution.

Communique (French). A public statement containing official information issued either by one government, or by several governments jointly.

Convoy. A naval unit which escorts and protects a fleet of passenger, troop, or merchant ships.

Contraband. Materials specified by one belligerent as subject to its blockade of an enemy power. There are two kinds of contraband. *Absolute contraband* is supposed to include only war materials. Ships carrying it are liable to destruction or confiscation. *Conditional contraband* consists of materials needed by civilians as well as military and naval forces. Conditional contraband is seized by blockade patrols, but the ships carrying it are not sunk or confiscated.

Coup (French). A sudden blow at a key political position carried out quickly and with little disturbance. A *coup d'etat* is a successful coup.

Demarche (French). A diplomatic step, or act.

Deploy. Military term meaning to lengthen a line by spreading out troops.

Detente (French). Relaxation or easing of a tense international situation.

Drang nach Osten (German). Advance toward the east. Specifically it refers to the German program of expansion in eastern Europe.

Embargo. A governmental act prohibiting the shipment of certain goods to specified countries. It may prohibit shipment of some goods to all countries, or of all goods to certain countries.

Entente (French). An informal understanding between nations working in a common interest. The nearest thing to an alliance.

Fait accompli (French). An accomplished fact. A sudden and decisive move which has been executed before anyone has time to prevent it.

Flank. In a military sense flank refers to the exposed edge (the extreme right or left) of a line of troops.

Gestapo (German). The *Geheime Staatspolizei*—the German secret police.

G.H.Q. An army term meaning general headquarters.

Incendiary bomb. A light, two-pound bomb containing thermite, which burns for several minutes at a temperature of 2,000° Fahrenheit when it explodes, and is capable of starting serious fires.

Internment. Limited or temporary imprisonment during wartime. In some cases it means confinement in a concentration camp; in others merely parole, or honorary confinement within the limits of a certain city. Belligerent aviators forced down on neutral soil, for instance, are subjected to internment by the neutral government for the duration of the war.

Lebensraum (German). Living space. In German politics it is used to signify the German desire to expand and win a "place in the sun."

M-Day. The first day of war when a mobilization act goes into effect—setting in motion all machinery for gathering troops and supplies, and turning a nation from a peacetime to a wartime economy.

Manifest. In shipping and naval circles this refers to a list showing in detail all freight carried on a single voyage by a single ship.

Machtpolitik (German). The politics of armed force.

Mechanized column. A military unit equipped with tanks and armored cars which may engage in actual fighting. The phrase is often confused with "motorized," which means that a unit is merely well supplied with trucks and other motor-driven vehicles capable of rapid movement.

Military units. The smallest military unit is usually the *squad*, which consists of from 8 to 13 men, depending upon the army. A *company* consists of about 250 men; a *regiment* from 1,800 to 2,400; a *division*, which is the smallest army unit complete with infantry, artillery, medical and signal corps, engineers, and so forth, may range from 12,000 to 20,000 men. Three or more divisions, plus reserve troops, make up an army *corps*. Two or more army corps may comprise a *field army*.

Non-recognition. A doctrine adhered to by the United States in refusing to extend official recognition to conquests made by armed force, such as Japanese conquests in Manchuria and North China, and the German conquest of Poland.

Pan-Slavism. A Russian imperialist movement to extend its power by exploiting the racial relationships between Russians and the Slavs in southeastern Europe. Pan-Slavism was a powerful influence in the Balkans just previous to the World War. It has been quiet ever since, but today there is talk of its being revived.

Plebiscite. The process of deciding important issues by submitting them to the people for a yes-or-no vote.

Protocol. A confusing term which is often used to mean any one of three things—(1) the original copy of a treaty or other important document; (2) the main body of a system of law, or a constitution; (3) an agreement preliminary to an important international agreement.

Rapprochement (French). A drawing together of two nations, or groups of nations, toward a closer understanding.

Realpolitik (German). Power politics, or simply practical politics.

Reconnaissance (French). A check up by air or land patrols sent out to discover the nature of enemy activities.

Revisionist powers. Countries which desire a revision of the Versailles Treaty, chief among which are Germany and Italy.

Safety Zone. A broad, neutral belt varying from 300 to 700 miles in width drawn around the Western Hemisphere (excluding Canada) by a conference of 21 American republics at Panama City. All belligerent ships and aircraft are prohibited from engaging in warlike activities within the confines of this zone.

Salient. A military term meaning a long, and often narrow, projection in a military line which is dangerous to hold (because it is exposed on three sides), but which can be used as a base from which to launch further attacks.

Search and Seizure. A "right" claimed by both German and British blockades, to stop and search any ship on the high seas. If the ship is carrying contraband destined for enemy ports, it is seized.

State of Siege. A state of emergency (not used in the United States) in which a government temporarily suspends peacetime civil rights and enacts emergency measures which prevail until the "state of siege" is ended.

Status Quo (Latin). Conditions which exist, or existed, at any given time.

Strafe. To lay down a heavy bombardment or punishing fire upon enemy troop concentrations.

Strategy. The science of planning and coordinating large-scale war operations. **Tactics.** On the other hand, is the science of planning and executing more limited operations on the field of battle.



U. S. ARMY—PRACTICE MANEUVER

. Vocational Outlook .

The Army

A GREAT objection to the army as a career used to be the slim chance of securing any sort of post because of the army's small size and relatively small number of vacancies. However, in its last session Congress authorized the army to build up its strength from 165,000 to 210,000 troops by next July, and on the outbreak of war in Europe the President, by executive order, authorized an immediate increase of 17,000 additional men.

Although a proportionate number of new officers will be commissioned, the increase will not make it any easier for a young civilian to obtain one of these positions. And because it is virtually impossible to work up from the ranks, anyone contemplating a military career should decide at once if he desires to be an officer. The procedure is then to attend the Military Academy at West Point, which means passing stiff competitive examinations and securing one of the three letters of recommendation that every senator and congressman is allowed to give. Failing this, a boy may attend a college which has a unit of the Reserve Officers Training Corps and apply for admission to active service upon graduation. One thousand men are accepted annually for a year's active service, but only 100 of these receive permanent commissions.

An officer's life is pleasant. As he advances his job becomes more and more that of a business executive. He is paid a minimum of \$1,500 a year with board, lodging, medical care, and an allowance for his wife and each child. Yet the chances of obtaining a commission are so remote that most boys would be ill advised to plan on a career as officer.

For everyone considering permanent or temporary enlistment, however, the picture is considerably brighter. Because of the general personnel increase, it is now possible for the first time in many years to enlist in any branch desired, that is, in the air force or cavalry or signal corps and so on. Moreover, it is possible to enlist for duty in the Philippines, Hawaii, Panama, or Alaska, with much more certainty of having the preference granted. The only requirements are literacy, good health and morals, and a minimum age of 18.

The army unquestionably attempts to make the soldier's lot as pleasant as possible. Discipline and drudgery are offset by sport and entertainment. The minimum rate of pay is \$21 a month, with board, lodging, medical care, and uniforms provided. A soldier's only expenses are laundry and pressing, haircuts, toilet articles, amusements, and miscellaneous personal items, and the money he saves he may deposit with the army at four per cent interest. He is allowed one month's furlough, or vacation, a year with pay.

Advancement is not rapid in peacetime, although the alert, hard-working "rookie" does get ahead. Even if a man does not move up, his pay is increased five per cent every four years, and he receives a bonus for each re-enlistment. Accident compen-

sation is given, and after 30 years a soldier may retire on a pension amounting to three-quarters of the pay he is receiving and an extra monthly allowance of \$15.75.

Much is made of the educational opportunities in the army. While it is true that there are army schools in every corps area, a man should not enlist for that reason alone. Nor would it be wise for him to take up a pursuit in the army in which he has not had some training before. If he has interest and qualifications, the army can teach him a number of peacetime occupations, including those of the accountant, aviator, baker, carpenter, cook, draftsman, electrician, mason, mechanic, meteorologist, musician, photographer, printer, radio operator, surveyor, veterinary, and X-ray technician. Competence in some of these fields and along more military lines gives a private a "specialist" rating and boosts his salary \$3 to \$30.

Enlisting in the army, however, is a step to be taken only after thorough consideration based on a more realistic picture of army life than that supplied by the recruiting sergeant. It is no picnic. Although it is possible for a soldier, under certain conditions, to buy his way out (after one year's service it costs about \$120), once he signs the enlistment papers, "he's in the army now." He may be sent anywhere and made to do anything. His life will have little stability.

Personalities in the News

LAST month the public career of Charles Augustus Lindbergh took a new turn when the aviator, scientist, and army officer broke a long silence by throwing his weight into the neutrality battle.

"Lindy" was born in Detroit 37 years ago. His family moved to Minnesota and he was in Little Falls High School when Charles A. Lindbergh, Sr. was in Washington as congressman and one of the so-called "northwestern radicals" fighting for peace. He read his father's resolution calling for joint action by Congress and President Wilson to end the war. He felt the effects of his father's "Nay!" in the roll call on declaring war, for the latter lost the seat he had held for 10 years and was not popular in the year that followed.

But meanwhile Lindbergh was graduating from high school and studying engineering which he gave up after two years in order to learn flying in Lincoln, Nebraska. He subsequently took army flying courses in Texas, flew the Chicago-St. Louis mail, and barnstormed until May 20, 1927. On that day he became a hero by making his famous flight to Paris. For several years, as he married and did some survey flying, he was an idol. He had the public's sympathy (although he was persecuted by the press) in the harrowing months following the kidnapping of his son. But during his self-imposed exile public sentiment cooled, and the fiercer supposed role in last year's Munich negotiations evoked sharp criticism. When he returned this year to undertake a survey for the army, reaction was hesitant.

Just after Congress convened, Lindbergh addressed the nation by radio, urging peace.



CHARLES A. LINDBERGH

He was understood to have spoken independently, against army advice, and his speech was taken as hostile to New Deal policy. This he denied, and two weeks ago, after conferring with several senators, he made his own neutrality proposal. Echoing Herbert Hoover, he demanded an embargo on offensive weapons, as well as restrictions on shipping and loans. To many, he was merely carrying on his father's fight to keep us out of war. Because he is still a hero to millions of

Americans, anything that Lindbergh says carries considerable weight and is widely publicized.

If any European diplomat stands out among his colleagues because of the success with which he has handled the affairs of his office during the last year or two, it is probably Joachim von Ribbentrop, who, as foreign minister of Germany, has advised Hitler on most of the moves he has made bearing upon foreign relations.

Von Ribbentrop is not a career diplomat, and his success has stirred to resentment a number of old-line diplomats who regard him as an amateur and intruder. Although there is some doubt as to his early life (various sources differ on many points), he was apparently born in the Rhineland in 1893, the son of a well-to-do colonel in the Prussian army. Schooling in England and France as well as Germany gave him an excellent command of languages at an early age—a fact which was to serve him well later in life. At the age of 18 he went to Canada in search of a living.

The outbreak of the World War brought von Ribbentrop back to Germany where he entered the army and served as a lieutenant on the Russian front. Hostile sources claim he subsequently deserted and fled to Sweden.

Friendly sources assert that he was wounded, and thus put out of action for a time. In 1918 he was appointed to the German embassy in Constantinople (the capital of the old Turkish empire), and given the rank of colonel. This was apparently his first venture into the field of diplomacy.

With Germany's defeat, life in the diplomatic service lost much of its former attraction. After the Armistice von Ribbentrop became a champagne salesman, traveling all over Europe and brushing up on his languages.

When Hitler came to power in 1933, von Ribbentrop was made a roving ambassador. Three years later he was sent to London as German ambassador, and in 1938, when the Nazi diplomatic corps was purged, von Ribbentrop was given his present post. His chief talents seem to lie in gauging the reactions of foreign powers to German acts of aggression. Twice von Ribbentrop told Hitler that England would not fight, and twice he was right. When the time arrived when England did fight, however, Ribbentrop seemed to save the situation by reaching the famous agreement with Russia.



JOACHIM VON RIBBENTROP

Do You Keep Up With the News?

(For answers to the following questions, turn to page 8, column 4)

1. The Community Chest will soon open its annual fall drive. Of the money its chapters collect, (a) all will be used to help war refugees, (b) most will be saved for such emergencies as floods and droughts, (c) all will



be spent in the communities in which it was raised, (d) half will be spent on housing.

2. Turkey, a question mark in the present war, fought on which side in the last war?

3. The army's authorized strength is 227,000 men, a figure set by (a) the Constitution, (b) Congress, (c) President Roosevelt, (d) Secretary of War Woodring.

4. The make of car manufactured in greatest quantity this year will be the _____, of which a production of 1,000,000 is planned.

5. The six New England states, all of which have Republican governors, have all decided to adopt the President's date of November 23 for Thanksgiving. True or false?

6. Libau and Windau are (a) presidents of Latvia and Estonia respectively, (b) the only Polish warships still afloat, (c) Latvian ports where Russia can build bases, (d) important rivers flowing into the Baltic.

7. More than 1,500,000 people lined the streets for the funeral in Chicago of _____, the first Cardinal to represent the Far West and Middle West.

8. What did Kipling mean when he referred to "the bear that walks like a man"?

9. Admiral Byrd will soon officially lay claims to land in Antarctica, where _____ nations have already made official or unofficial claims to _____ of the total area. Supply the number of nations and fraction of the area.

10. "England has agreed to respect the three-miles-from-shore safety zone recently set up by the Panama Convention." Correct the sentence.

11. Radio speakers who talk on "controversial" topics, among them Father Coughlin, are being curbed by (a) an act of Congress just passed, (b) the Department of Interior, (c) the Federal Communications Commission, (d) the National Broadcasters' Association.

12. When the Supreme Court called on the White House recently, four of the justices were greeted by the man who had appointed them. Name the four.

13. Sir Horace Wilson, a close friend of Prime Minister Chamberlain, holds the post of (a) first lord of the admiralty, (b) chief industrial adviser to the government, (c) minister of information, (d) leader of "His Majesty's most loyal opposition" in Commons.

14. The American Medical Association, to which most reputable physicians belong, is opposed to compulsory health insurance. True or false?

15. The *Iroquois* was (a) a British freighter held in New York for inspection, (b) the name of a German "raider" believed to be in Florida waters, (c) an American vessel the Germans warned might be sunk, presumably by the British, (d) a British warship sunk off Ireland.

"Work"

The late Dr. Henry van Dyke, whose "America For Me" recently appeared in these columns, for a quarter of a century taught English literature at Princeton University. He has left us this philosophy of labor:

Let me but do my work from day to day
In field or forest, at the desk or loom,
In roaring market place or tranquil room;

Let me but find it in my heart to say,
When flagrant wishes beckon me astray,
"This is my work; my blessing, not my doom;

Of all who live, I am the one by whom
This work can best be done in the right way."

Then shall I see it not too great, nor small,

To suit my spirit and to prove my powers;

Then shall I cheerful greet the laboring hours,
And cheerful turn, when the long shadows fall

At eventide, to play and love and rest,
Because for me I know my work is best.



ORDER IN THE MIDST OF DISORDER
Williamsburg Houses, large-scale low-rent development in New York is an outstanding example of government housing.

Housing Becomes One of Serious Problems Confronting U.S. People

(Concluded from page 1, column 1)

ican people as a whole to continue to be even as well housed as they are now, experts say, it will be necessary for us to build living units—either apartments or houses—at the rate of 700,000 a year. Yet last year only 350,000 dwellings were constructed, and that was the best record since 1929.

These figures indicate the seriousness of the housing problem. They show what must be done for us even to hold our own. If we improve the situation we must do a great deal more. It is said that we need to build at least a million homes a year between now and 1950 if all the families in the United States are to be adequately housed.

2. How are the communities and the nation at large affected by improper housing?

The low health standards in slum areas are a constant menace to the community at large. Epidemics occasionally break out in these areas and spread throughout the city. Crime in nearly all communities is largely concentrated in the districts which are infested with slums. Moreover, the fire bill of these districts is much higher than for the better-housed sections of the community.

Philadelphia offers a good illustration of what it costs the American people to allow slums to exist. In that city, there is a slum area which contributes only \$67,000 a year in taxes and yet this section, overridden as it is with crime, fires, and disease, costs the city \$337,000 a year. In other words, Philadelphia taxpayers must pay \$270,000 each year for the upkeep of this slum district. The same situation, to a greater or lesser extent, prevails in most other American cities.

3. Why is it impossible for a large proportion of the American people to enjoy the benefits of good housing?

The costs of building houses are simply too much for the pocketbooks of a great many families. It is considered unwise for a family to pay more than about a fifth of its income for housing. If a larger share than that goes for rent there will not be enough left for other necessities. This means that the lower third of American families, those with incomes of less than \$1,000 a year, cannot possibly pay more than \$200 a year, or about \$18 a month for rent. Now, in most parts of the country, particularly in the larger cities, a house or apartment which is fit to live in cannot be rented for \$18 a month. A way has not yet been found to build houses profitably for this great mass of low-income families.

4. What is private industry doing to tackle this problem, and to what extent has its program been successful?

Many private builders throughout the country are reducing their profits to a minimum and experimenting in every way to build houses cheaply enough for the lower-income groups. While they are making some progress in this direction, the problem still remains largely unsolved.

5. What steps are being taken by the national and local governments to promote low-cost housing?

Through the United States Housing Authority, the government is making loans to cities, states, or counties for the purpose of erecting low-cost houses or apartments which are sanitary and attractive, and which will rent at a figure suited to the incomes of the poor. The government does

not lend all the money for the construction of such buildings, but lends 90 per cent of it. The local government puts up the rest.

The United States Housing Authority, when it was established about two years ago, was given \$800,000,000 for this purpose. It has already lent most of its money. Nearly 200 cities—large and small—have taken action to participate in this program. In a number of these cities, the actual work on the buildings is completed.

The cities and towns which desire to cooperate in this program must first set up housing agencies composed of experts in this field. These agencies are known as local housing authorities. They make all plans for the projects in their communities and they operate them after they are completed.

Altogether, about 150,000 families will be placed in new homes by the time the government's \$800,000,000 is used up. Counting four and a half members to a family, it means that well over 600,000 men, women, and children will be moved into desirable living quarters.

The government does not expect to lose a great deal of money from its housing activities, for the cities will use the money they collect in rents to repay the government. But in order to get rents low enough for the poorer people, the cities will make no profits; in fact, they will lose some money on their housing activities. The United States Housing Authority has a fund for this purpose. It will spend \$28,000,000 a year to make up these losses. It does not expect to get this money back.

This program is enabling large numbers of families to live in better quarters than they could possibly afford otherwise. In certain of the smaller towns, the rents, not including gas and electric charges, are as low as \$2 to \$3 per room a month, and in a number of the larger northern cities they will range from \$3.50 to \$5. Rents

6. Is there any prospect that houses may someday be turned out on a mass scale in factories, thereby greatly reducing them in price and bringing them within the reach of a great many more people?

When one considers the industrial miracles which have already been performed in the United States, it would seem that eventually the housing industry would be organized along mass-scale lines. The leaders of this movement, both in private industry and in the government, argue that there is no reason why houses cannot be turned out in factories just as automobiles have long been. It is entirely possible, they point out, to make sections of a house in a factory and then put these together on a lot in a very short time. Costs could be greatly reduced by using such mass-scale operations.

It is a fact, of course, that both the government and private industry are experimenting with factory-made houses. Several government agencies have worked out designs and materials for such houses, and quite a good many private companies are working at the problem. How rapidly this movement will go forward remains to be seen.

Probably one reason the government has not pushed this type of housing is that it fears the effect it will have on building-trades workers. Many thousands of people in these trades might suffer severely. The new housing companies would employ mostly unskilled factory hands instead of experienced and relatively high-paid carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers, and other workers now engaged in the building industry. Many of these trained laborers might never be able to earn as much as they can today. On the other hand, it is argued by those who are pushing the idea of factory-made houses, the development of a great prefabricated housing industry might supply steady employment for many more workers than the building industry



LOW RENTS IN THE SOUTH
Liberty Homes in Miami, Florida, where Negro families may rent housing units for as little as \$2.85 weekly.

in many of these new apartments are as cheap as they now are in slums in the same communities.

But no one thinks that this program in itself will begin to solve the entire housing problem of the nation. The most it will do is to help a small proportion of the poorer families in the United States. There will still be many millions of people in this group who are improperly housed.

Another step being taken by the federal government to improve the nation's housing conditions is to make it easier for people to borrow money for the purpose of building a home or of improving the one in which they now live. The agency in charge of this program is the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). Here is how it operates: If an individual wants to remodel his home or to build a new one, he may, if his credit is good, borrow a large part of the money he needs at a fairly low rate of interest from a private lending agency. This agency is not afraid to lend the money, for the Federal Housing Administration guarantees all but a small part of the loan. If it is not repaid, the government, rather than the private agency, is the chief loser.

The FHA is doing quite a lot to promote better housing among the middle classes of the nation. The poorer third of the population, however, is not in a position to benefit from this program.

does under its present set-up, and at the same time it would go far toward solving the nation's housing problem.

REFERENCES: (a) Home and an Acre, by A. Van Vliessen. *Reader's Digest*, October 1939, pp. 7-11. (b) Housing, a National Disgrace, by C. Stevenson. *The Atlantic*, December 1938, pp. 835-845; January 1939, pp. 100-110. (c) Housing, a National Achievement, by N. Straus. *The Atlantic*, February 1939, pp. 204-210. (d) Let Private Capital Build Houses, by C. F. Lewis. *Nation's Business*, July 1938, p. 32. (e) Slum Clearance: A Flight from Reality, by R. F. Marshall. *Forum*, February 1939, pp. 103-107.

Answer Keys

Do You Keep Up With the News?

1. (c); 2. the Central Powers; 3. (c); 4. Chevrolet; 5. false; 6. (c); 7. George Cardinal Mundelein; 8. Russia; 9. six, four-fifths; 10. "England has not agreed to respect the 300-miles-from-shore safety zone recently set up by the Pan-American Conference"; 11. (d); 12. Associate Justices Black, Reed, Frankfurter, and Douglas; 13. (b); 14. true; 15. (c).

PRONUNCIATIONS: Afghanistan (af-gan-i-stan), Aland (oe'land), Haakon (ho'-kon—first o as in or), Iran (ee-ran'), Iraq (ee'rahk'), Kallio (kall'yoe), Saadabad (sah-ah'dah-bahd), Transcaucasian (trans-ko-kay'-shan), Joachim von Ribbentrop (yoe-ah'-keem fon' rib'ben-troap).

Smiles

Student: "You look broken up. What's the matter?"

Roommate: "I wrote home for money for a study lamp."

"Well?"

"They sent me a lamp."

—SELECTED

"Cellars, spacious, dry, solid; excellent large house above; 20 miles from London."

—Advt. in *The Times*, spotted by *Punch*



"JUST SCRATCH BEHIND HIS EARS. HE LOVES THAT!"
REYNOLDS IN SATURDAY EVENING POST

The film producer was raving to his associates about a new actress he had just discovered. "You leave her to me, fellows," he bragged, "and in two years I'll make her a star overnight."

—FROTH

Judge: "Your profession?"

Witness: "Agricultural expert."

"What was your father?"

"A farmer."

"And your grandfather?"

"A peasant." —LUSTIGE KOLNER ZEITUNG

"I saw some spinster pines in the woods."
"What do you mean—spinster pines?"
"Nobody axed them!"

Flight officer, back from air raid: "Sorry to be three hours late, sir. I misunderstood instructions and pushed the leaflets under people's doors." —LONDON DAILY HERALD

Small Child (leaving party): "I've had a very nice time at your party."

Hostess: "You don't say so."

"Oh, yes, I always do." —SELECTED

"Shopping?"

"No, I haven't time today. I'm just buying a few things I need." —NORTH WIND